



## ***Assessment of environment and security hot spots in Georgia***

Tbilisi, May 14-15, 2004

United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe (OSCE) are launching the Environment and Security Initiative in the South Caucasus. The first phase of the Initiative will yield in the assessment report, which will identify issues where environmental degradation may pose threats to human security and contribute to instability and suggest actions to deal with such threats.

The work will start on May 14 with a two-day national consultation among local and international experts. They will discuss key environmental risk factors that have the potential of hampering the security in Georgia.

The Environment and Security Initiative was launched in 2002 by OSCE, UNDP and UNEP. Competition over natural resources or risks stemming from environmental pollution can lead to instability. Environmental stress can be an important contributing factor towards political instability. Eliminating environmental problems helps to ease political tensions.

The Initiative seeks to:

- raise awareness of the linkages between environment and security and assess environmental risks and their impacts on security;
- engage with governmental and non-governmental stakeholder groups, to identify both risks posed by environmental change, and opportunities for transboundary cooperation to promote sustainable development, peace and stability;
- use the mapping of risks as well as needs and opportunities for environmental cooperation as part of an integrated assessment and consultative dialogue to improve sustainable resource management, crisis prevention and peace promotion;
- Develop and implement projects to deal and resolve risks identified by the assessment and promote confidence and co-operation.

For more information:

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